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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement made by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, signed on 16 October 2015 in Kazakhstan at the summit meeting of the CIS countries (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69 (d).

(Signed) **Mirgul Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations



**Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2016 from the
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement by the Heads of State of the States members of the
Commonwealth of Independent States to commemorate the
thirtieth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear
power station**

The date of 26 April 2016 marks the thirtieth anniversary of one of the most serious man-made disasters, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. In resolution 58/119, the United Nations General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to proclaim 26 April the International Day Commemorating Victims of Radiation Accidents and Catastrophes and invited Member States of the United Nations to observe this Day.

Belarus, Russia and Ukraine bore the brunt of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The courage and self-sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of disaster relief workers at the Chernobyl nuclear power station from all of the republics which were part of the Soviet Union exemplify clearly the brotherhood and solidarity of our peoples who, heroically and at the cost of their health and lives, protected the population of the region from the devastating effects of radiation. We pay tribute to all of the veterans of Chernobyl and call for full cooperation to address problems arising as a result of their involvement in the Chernobyl disaster clean-up efforts.

Today there are internationally recognized schools of science, state-of-the-art production of special measurement equipment, new technologies for the construction and operation of high security radiation facilities, and a sophisticated system of legislation, medical and social protection, monitoring of radioactive contamination and agricultural and forestry management. Nevertheless, despite the progress made, the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster still affects the lives of some of the population living in the contaminated areas. In this regard, we welcome efforts by the international community, including the CIS member States, to carry out a project to build a protective structure for the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

We are pleased to note that the third decade following the Chernobyl disaster, which has been proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Areas, has seen the implementation of international programmes and projects which have successfully complemented the efforts of the Governments of the affected States to develop radiological and environmental education, disseminate information on living safely in areas contaminated by radiation and increase the local population's involvement in addressing specific socioeconomic problems in areas affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

By observing 26 April as the International Day Commemorating Victims of Radiation Accidents and Catastrophes and paying tribute to the memory of those who lost their lives as a result of the Chernobyl tragedy, we are reaffirming the resolve to continue efforts to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

Given that we continue to face natural and man-made challenges and threats of an urgent nature in the contemporary world, we call upon the international community to continue to cooperate in tackling and minimizing them, applying tried and tested forms of collaboration which facilitate the implementation of targeted programmes, projects and initiatives that complement the broader efforts by States to advance the socioeconomic development of affected areas.

16 October 2015
Burabai, Republic of Kazakhstan